

The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 1998

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of 30 September 1998, nearly \$300,000 has been raised from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 160 donors.

Corporate Gifts

Northeast Bank \$25,000
Exxon Corporation, Houston, TX \$1,000

Foundation Grants

Betterment Fund \$75,000 (Challenge)
Bingham Trust \$10,000
Davis Family Foundation \$25,000

Room Naming Opportunities (\$25,000 or more)

Robert and Janet Spidell, Anaheim, CA
Henry and Patricia Stewart, Boston, MA

Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True Associates (Donors of \$10,000 or more)

Walter and Carolyn Hatch, Bethel
Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA

Enoch Foster Partners

(Donors of \$5000 to \$9999)

Anonymous
Anonymous
Robert Goodwin
Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC, Boston, MA
Richard and Sally Taylor, Bethel
Edmond and Sudie Vachon, Bethel

Agnes Hastings Straw Circle

(Donors of \$2500 to \$4999)

Kenneth and Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel
Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Booklin
Dexter and Janet Stowell, Bethel

Dr. William B. Lapham Honor Society

(Donors of \$1000-\$2499)

Rep. Alvin and Lee Barth, Bethel

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The author William Michael O'Brien on the Bethel Inn golf course in 1944, age 14. Photo courtesy of the author.

MEMORIES OF BETHEL AND THE BETHEL INN

by William M. O'Brien, M.D.

Editor's Note: On 6 August 1998, the Society held its monthly meeting at the Bethel Inn in honor of the Inn's 85th anniversary of operation. Several people with ties to the Inn over the years served on an oral history panel and there were a number of comments from the audience about its history as well. This memoir by Bethel native William O'Brien, now of Charlottesville, VA, records some of his memories of this venerable Bethel institution.

My parents, Patrick and Mabel O'Brien, spent the later parts of their adult lives working at the Bethel Inn.

They were both refugees from the poverty of rural Ireland. My father was born and grew up in Limerick, Ireland, a son of destitute, landless peasants. He survived more than a miserable, poor childhood. He survived a miserable, poor, Irish Catholic childhood in the poorest part of Ireland. A book about such a childhood is *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. He came to America at the age of sixteen. He had no schooling, but he could read and write. My father was stocky, and had red hair and a ruddy complexion; in later life he became bald. Before World War I, he worked as a lumberjack in Maine and Alaska.

My mother's family were poor Irish from Connemara in western Galway. They were "black Irish" and their legend is told in the film "The Secret of Roan Irish." Those who remember my mother will recall her dark complexion and

(continued on page 3)

(Capital Campaign, continued from page 1)

Bethel Rotary Club in Honor of Roger R. Conant and John B. Head
Ted and Kitty Chadbourne, Bethel
Stephen and Lynda Chandler, Brunswick
Geoffrey and Martha Clark, Portsmouth, NH
Howard and Virginia Cole, Bethel
Dana and Barbara Douglass, Bethel
Colwyn and Judith Haskell, Bethel
William and Susan Herlihy, Bethel
Dick and Lorrie Hoeh, Bethel
Jane and Richard Hosterman, West Bethel
Arlan and Eleanor Jodrey, Bethel
Rebecca Kendall, Bethel
Alden and Mabel Kennett, Bethel
Thomas H. Mitchell, Culver City, CA
George and Danna Nickerson, Bethel
Dean and Priscella Walker, Kittery
Stephen and Margaret Wight, Newry

21st Century Club

(Donors of \$999 in honor of the Society's occupancy of the Robinson House in 1999)

Stanley R. Howe, Bethel

Robert Chapman Founders

(Donors of \$500 to \$998)

Anonymous

Anonymous

Lincoln and Suzanne Fiske, Bethel

John and Julia Fox, West Newton, MA

Ronald and Marguerite Kendall, Bethel

John and Margaret King, Lakeland, FL

Helen Morton, Bethel

Persis Post, Bethel

Martin Silver, Norway

Friends of the Robinson House

(Donors of up to \$499)

Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ontario; Esther Anderson, Brockton, MA; Bradley and Judith Barker, Bethel; Jean Barker, Delray Beach, FL; John and Mary Beth Bayerlein, Bethel; D.A. Bean Enterprises, Bethel; Bessie Bennett, Bethel; Randall H. Bennett, Bethel; A.W. and Florine Bowden, Bethel; Norma Buck, Oxford; Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Cathy Canavan, Cool, CA; Ethel Chapman, West Bethel; Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Donald M. Christie, Jr., M.D., Poughkeepsie, NY; Norman and Sylvia Clanton, Bethel; Stanley Coolidge, Oxford; Allen and Jacquelyn Cressy, Bethel; Rupert and Eva Conroy, Auburn; Richard and Carole Duplessis, Bethel; Katheryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Raymond Fales, Waitsfield, VT; Jane Fife, Salt Lake City, Utah; Allan Fraser, Bethel; Doris Fraser, Bethel; Marion Gates, Ann Arbor, MI; Gordon and Mary Gillies, Hebron; Wilma Gorman, Bethel; Rupert and Suzanne Grover, Norway; Carolyn and Tom Harrison, Portland; Florence Hastings, Bethel; Michael and Leslie Hathaway, Conway, NH; Clayton and Helen Heath, Norway; Pamela S. Heydon, Wilton, CT; Scott Heydon, Shaker Heights, OH; Elizabeth Hines, Brooklin; Adolf U.Honkala, Midlothian, VA; Kathy McLeod Hooke, Bethel; Vernon Ingraham, Wareham, MA; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA; Ardith A. Kelly, Salinas, CA; Earlon and Mary Keniston, Bethel; John Kubach, Bethel; Daisy LeClair, Bethel; Louise Lincoln, Bethel; James

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

DECEMBER IS 20% OFF MONTH IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

See page 4 to order items totalling \$10 or more at a 20% discount for the whole month of December. No member discounts apply during this sale.

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

(Capital Campaign)

Locke, Topeka, KS; Michael Lovejoy, Norway; M/M Peter Lunder/The Lunder Foundation, Waterville; James and Ethel Mann, Lunenburg, MA; Mary March, Bridgton; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel; Joann C. Mooney, London, UK; Marvin and Tineka Ouwinga, Bethel; Richard and Wendy Penley, Bethel; Lillian Perkins, Bethel; Betty Barlow Prescott, Bangor; Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Dr. David Richards, Skowhegan; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; John and Lisa Robbins, Richmond; Dr. Ned Robertson, Lyndhurst, OH; Bertha Stevens, Bethel; Persis Suddeth, Bowie, MD; Don and Peggy Tobin, Bandera, TX; Mary Valentine, Bethel; Mary Wheeler, Bethel; Elizabeth Delano Whiteman, Philadelphia, PA; Ruth Wight, Bethel; Willard and Sylvia Wight, Newry; Eleanor Wilson, Bryant Pond.

Twitchell Family Challenge

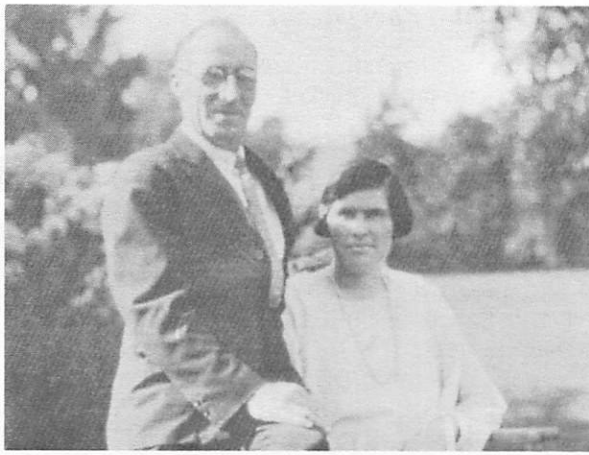
Mrs. Roxanne Twitchell Sly has issued a challenge to all Twitchell descendants to join her in contributing enough to have one of the rooms named after the Twitchell family. The minimum price of a room is \$25,000. Anyone wishing to learn more about this challenge is encouraged to call the society (800) 824-2910 or use E-Mail: history @ bdc.bethel.me.us.

Please send all tax deductible contributions to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

Robinson House

The present "Elms" of Bethel Inn stands beside the current Society headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House on Broad Street. In September 1997, the Society launched an ambitious project to acquire, renovate and provide for operations of this building as a proposed addition to its facilities. Named for the original owner of the house, O'Neil Robinson (1797-1867), the building would then be known as the Robinson House. This would provide critically needed space for exhibits, expanded museum store and craft operations, more adequate research room and collection storage as well as an education room for all ages. This addition would also allow the Society to expand its focus to become a truly Northern New England institution and establish its Regional History Center with programming, conferences, publications, exhibits, lectures, etc. relating to that region.

**JOIN THOSE LISTED ABOVE IN HELPING TO
SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
21ST CENTURY! PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX
DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION NOW!**



Patrick and Mabel Kelly O'Brien. Photo courtesy of the author.

(O'Brien, continued from page 1)

jet black hair. She was born shortly after her parents arrived in America and reached the tenth grade. Before the Great War, she had worked in a factory, as a maid in the Bingham household, and a waitress at the Inn.

At the end of World War I, they married. He had just been discharged from the U.S. Army. They were among the founders of Bethel's Mundt-Allen Post of the American Legion. They both found employment at the Inn, she as a waitress, he as bell man and porter. In quiet times in the winter, he cut the firewood used in the guest fireplaces. They lived in the upstairs flat in the home of "Pearly" Flint [now the home of Society members Josiah and Joanna Drummond on Broad Street]. My sister was born in 1927, and I arrived in 1931. After the arrival of two children, my mother could no longer work as a waitress, and from 1927 until 1953, she did the personal laundry for the Inn guests.

In spite of the depression of 1929, they did well. In 1932, they bought a Chevrolet sedan and they built a modest home on Paradise Road in 1935. They both died in 1958. My father worked split shifts: morning and evening one day, afternoon the next. He had free time for his avocations, which were reading the newspapers, and listening to the ball games. My mother worked much harder; she was always busy doing washing, hanging out clothes to dry, ironing, and mending. She rarely had a free minute but she loved to cook, collect stamps, knit, crochet, and make quilts. I still wonder how she managed to do so much, carry such a burden, and still be a loving mother.

Things went well until World War II. There were restrictions on travel and the Inn closed in winter. I believe Mr. Bingham always had a benevolent attitude toward the Inn employees. One winter my father was night watchman, the next he cut firewood all winter, and worked out of town another winter. There was nothing for my mother. Our living standard deteriorated, as did the quality of our family life.

After the war, things improved, but my parents were getting old. In 1953, my father retired on a modest social security pension. He had a series of small strokes, and my mother cared for him till he was completely incapacitated. In 1957, I took him to the Togus Veterans Hospital. A year later, he died there. My mother was free of work, children, and cares for the first time in her life and she enjoyed her hobbies. Unfortunately, she suddenly developed streptococcal glomerulophritis and died just six weeks after my father.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Historical societies are usually known for celebrating things old, but at the moment our focus is on the "new." It is "new" as in a new community event for New Year's Eve. This would continue our long tradition of providing festivals and other cultural activities for our area.

Our Society is spearheading an affordable, alcohol-free, country-style New Year's Eve celebration patterned after those in Boston and Portland, using Maine entertainers and involving neighboring communities. The idea is supported by the local Chamber, Mahoosuc Arts, and other groups and individuals who have been approached.

The celebration will include a lighted vehicle parade, community bonfire, a variety of musical and other performances at different sites, refreshments, and midnight fireworks. We envision this becoming an annual event that will create an additional calling card to our beautiful and historic area.

Society members are encouraged to join in this celebration, and to spread the word to their family and friends.
Walter Hatch

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Justin Gilbert, Myrtle Beach, SC
Gloria B. Jackson, Chaseburg, WI
Peter J. Tommila, Hawaiian Gardens, CA

(O'Brien)

What can be said for these two lives whose fate was so entangled with the Bethel Inn? They certainly worked hard, provided good services, were productive members of the Bethel community, and produced two children who succeeded in American society. If we accept the past as the only reliable standard, Patrick O'Brien and Mabel Kelly had a far, far better life in Bethel than they ever could have expected in rural Ireland.

My older sister worked at the Bethel Inn every summer, as did many other young ladies of our village. Up until age twelve, she baby-sat local children; Mary Carroll was a nurse (Alton, her husband, was the druggist), and little Lee Carroll was her biggest customer. She also watched and entertained small children of Inn guests. At age twelve, she became the pickle girl at the Inn, and from thirteen to seventeen, she was a waitress. Mae McCrea was the head waitress, who always insisted that the girls be polite, punctual, and neat, and demanded that they provide excellent and courteous service. My sister gained valuable experience, earned enough money to buy all her own clothes, and was well-dressed when she left to enter nursing school at eighteen.

I began caddying at age eleven, in 1942, along with Lee Carver, Quentin Hall, and Teddy Young. We were small and inexperienced, so the best jobs went to older, bigger boys, who ran the caddie shack. They included "Squash" Vail, "Buster" Robertson, and "Bozo" Young. They were not Mafia thugs, but were older boys entering adolescence, who on their seventeenth birthday faced certain draft into military service. Buster and Bozo often expressed concern about their older brothers, who were best buddies, and had survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, but were soon to fight the Japanese in some unknown place in the South

(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. They may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents must include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should add \$3 to cover mailing expenses.

Tile

Moses Mason House \$3.50

Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 each

(Moses Mason House, Bethel Railroad Station, Summer House, Bethel Covered Bridge)

Booklets (The Family Farm, Made in Bethel) 75 cents each

Dr. Moses Mason and His House \$1

Molly Ockett \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Town of Bethel \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$9.95

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Moses Mason Museum (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adults, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Post Cards: Dr. Moses Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House 10 cents each

Tote Bags (Moses Mason Museum logo) small \$7.50 large \$11.50

Placemat, 4 season, set of four Bethel scenes \$7.50

Books

Adams & Glatz, *Young Wives Tales* \$19.95 Paper

Barnes, *Maine Life: The Photographs of N.C. Maxim* \$16.99 Paper

Bean, *East Bethel Road* \$50 Cloth

Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History* \$39.95 Paper

Bennett, *The White Mountains* \$14.99 Paper

Bennett, *The Mt. Zircon Moon Tide Spring* \$19.95 Paper

Crosby, *From an Old Leather Trunk* \$5 Cloth

Crosby, *I Was A Summer Boarder* \$5 Cloth

Dickerman, *A Guide to Crawford Notch* \$12.95 Paper

Fraser, *A History of Maine Made Automobiles* \$34.95 Cloth

\$24.95 Paper

Gove, *J.E. Henry's Logging Railroads* \$25.95 Paper

Grumet, *Northeastern Indian Lives 1632-1816* \$19.95 Cloth

Hathaway, *Everything Happened Around the Switchboard* \$13.95 Paper

Howe, *Concise History of the Maine State Grange* \$20 Cloth

Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* \$24.95 Paper

Hutchinson, *The Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad* \$20

Killgore, *Descendants of Joseph Killgore* \$65 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Bethel, Maine 1768-1890* \$45 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine* \$19.95 Cloth

Little, *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850* \$9.95 Paper

Maine the Pine Tree State: *From Prehistory to the Present* \$29.95 Paper

Mills, *The Genealogy of Samuel & Frances (Pembroke) Mills Family* \$5 Paper

Paris, Maine: *Second Two Hundred Years* \$45 Cloth

Parkman, *The Gould Academy Story* \$9.95 Paper

Proceedings of the Steamship College \$25 Paper

Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower* \$15.95 Paper

Shirrefs, *The Richardson Lakes* \$29.95 Paper

Spaulding, *Historical Relics of the White Mountains* \$12.95 Paper

Stillinger, *Historic Deerfield* \$19.95 Cloth

Tolles, *Grand Resort Hotels of the White Mountains* \$50 Cloth

Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings* \$19.95 Cloth

Whitney, *The World of C.A. Stephens* \$19.95 Paper

Wight, Carrie, *A History of Newry* \$5 Paper

Wight, Paula, *Newry Profiles* \$5 Paper

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. If the items you ordered are in stock, they will be sent by return mail. For further information, please call toll free 1-800-824-2910.

(O'Brien, continued from page 3)

Pacific. Buster was my cousin, and sheltered my entrance into the American labor market.

All younger male adults were at war and we caddied mostly for men and women in their late middle ages. They generally were kind and generous, and were well-educated and made excellent role models for a boy whose parents had never finished high school. I caddied several summers for Judge Stearns, who was Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. A typical foursome consisted of Dr. Tibbetts, the local general practitioner, Dr. Brown, the local dentist, Dr. Walters, Mr. Bingham's personal physician, and Professor Newton, head of the Classics Department at Princeton University. Newton had a booming voice, and he good naturedly harassed the caddies and fellow guests. Because of his loud voice and continuous chatter he was known to every caddie as "Phonograph" Newton.

What were the economics of the child labor? By 1944, the older boys were all drafted and I was bigger and getting good jobs. I would carry two bags for eighteen holes in the morning and again in the afternoon. The fee for this was \$3, and with tips I made usually at least \$5. In seven days, I worked about thirty to thirty-five hours, and earned about \$35 a week, or about \$1 per hour, and no social security, state or federal taxes were removed. In the past forty years, the U.S. consumer price index has increased by a factor of ten, so in the purchasing power of 1998 dollars, I took home about \$10 per hour. I worked out doors, on a beautiful golf course, and had a meaningful association with older, mature, intelligent, and well-educated men and women. I learned that hard work had its rewards, and I became organized and ambitious. In this modern era, the caddie is extinct thanks to the golf cart. Today about the best that an adolescent boy can hope for is to ruin his complexion flipping greasy burgers at a fast food restaurant. He would earn the minimum wage and take home about \$3.50 after taxes and social security deductions, which provides him about one third of the purchasing power I had in 1944.

I, patriotically, put all my caddie money in U.S. Government War Bonds and did my part to win the war. I cashed in the last bond in my final year at Yale Medical School. Bethel was a wonderful place to grow up, and I look back on my time as a caddie at the Bethel Inn as a positive maturing experience in the early years of my life.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the OXFORD ADVERTISER, 15 October 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway

While at Harrison's Landing Capt. Edwards was detailed "on general court martial." During July he had been expecting Col. Jackson to return and take command of the Regt. in which he was going to obtain a leave of absence or resign. He had written home again and again that he should never serve under Jackson. His family was consequently looking daily for his arrival in Bethel. He had promised his old war horse "Mac" that had been in many battles and which had been recently purchased, to the boy who had done the best in school. All were expecting some present. The first of August came and the father had not returned.

Col. Jackson rejoined the Regt. and Maj. Scammon, a fine officer who had been away on leave of absence returned wearing the shoulder bars of Lieut. Col. Just as



President Walter Hatch (left) and Society trustee Susan Herlihy view the exhibit "The Way Life Should Be: Tourism, Romance, and Reality in Early Modern Maine" which will be at the Society into mid-March 1999 on loan from the Maine Historical Society. Supported by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council, the exhibit provides insights into life in Maine during the early years of the 20th century. Highlighted are the "Colonial Revival," the early stages of the historic preservation movement; the Maine centennial celebration of 1920, the interest in Indian life, the advent of modern tourism marketing, the world of immigrants and Americanization efforts, and the rise and rapid fall of the Ku Klux Klan. The exhibit is free and open to the public, Tuesday through Friday, 1-4 P.M. and by appointment.

Soldiers of '61)

Capt. Edwards got ready to go home, the army received orders to move to the front by way of Washington, into the vicinity of Manassas, where Gen. Pope was trying to check the advance of the rebel troops toward the North. The movement of McClellan's army was slow. Late in the afternoon of the 15th of August the last of his army had left the Landing. The "Quaker guns" and men stuffed with straw, which had been left in the fortifications to keep aback the enemy, did their duty for some hours as well as real guns and Yankee soldiers could have done and when the fact was at length known the Rebels Gen. Slocum's Division which acted as rear guard was well underway to Newport News. It was a tedious march of six days over dusty roads to the latter place. Not a note of music greeted their ears or enlivened them since they had started. The army bands had been all mustered out before they left their encampment on the James. While passing Mt. Vernon the resting place of the great Washington, the steamer saluted with the whistle, a beautiful and appropriate custom, observed by the people of all nations, as well as our own.

They reached Alexandria on the 26th of August, and the Fifth Maine took up its quarters in its old camp at Fort Lyon. Here the Regt. remained till the 29th when it received orders to move. The first day they marched five or six miles to a place called Annondale where they camped overnight. Franklin and Porter didn't seem to care about pushing forward their troops very rapidly. "We could hear Pope's cannon," said Capt. Edwards, "and there was no reason why we should have gone right to the front."

What unbiased man, who now looks over that disastrous campaign of Pope's and noting the slowness by which

McClellan's troops were sent to his relief, that does not blame somebody for criminal neglect? The causes of many of the brilliant campaigns of the Rebel Generals are not hard to trace. In the Judgment Day some of our Generals must answer for noble and precious lives uselessly sacrificed.

The next day the Regt. marched to the Bull Run by Fairfax, Centerville and Cub Run, a distance of 17 miles. Fifty stragglers and other organizations were picked up and forced into the ranks. As they near the front from Capt. Edwards is again in command of the Fifth Maine. He had written home to explain why he had not returned. "I will not ask for a leave of absence while hearing of a booming rebel cannon." These are noble words and do credit to the man who uttered them.

As the Regt. reached the Run, Pope's army passed and Slocum's Division was posted to cover the retreat. The Fifth Maine was the rear command and as it passed the bridge over Cub Run, Capt. Edwards was the last man over when the bridge was cut down and the Regt. took a position behind one of the batteries. The Division was not attacked but it had arrived on the field just in time to save Pope's army.

Of the death of Gen. Philip Kearney, Capt. Edwards writes: "While halting there between Centerville and Chantilly the gallant Phil. Kearney, the hero of many fights, passed the Regt. for the last time. At the sight of his armless sleeve, the men began to cheer. Taking his reins in his teeth he took off his hat and saluted. Thousands of hats from our Division were thrown into the air, and cheer after cheer followed him as he rode forward to the extreme front where his Division was. This was the last we saw of Gen. Phil. Kearney. Getting too near the Rebel lines in the darkness of the night and during the severe thunder storm he came upon a hostile body of troops and was commanded to halt. 'Go to hell' was his response and turning to ride away was instantly shot by a common soldier who, it is said, had no orders to fire. But no officer in the Army of the Potomac could raise the enthusiasm of our soldiers like Phil. Kearney."

The Regt. marched back to Fort Lyons again which place it reached inside of a day. Two days to the front, one day back. No one can question the courage of the soldiers of the Fifth Maine. The cause must be sought for among the then controlling spirits of the army. Lest an objectionable General should win laurels by a Union victory thousands of brave men were sacrificed. "Verily envy is a green eyed monster" and to be denounced as among the most pernicious, degrading and worst of all the lesser human possessions.

When the Fifth Maine reached their camping place it found Michigan Regt. 1000 strong, which had just been mustered in and sent to the seat of war. It had provisions in abundance. While the Maine boys were marching by the camp of the Michiganders, they stove in a large number of boxes of bread and putting the white loaves on their bayonets, they made a fantastic appearance as they marched through the evening. They also confiscated a load of straw but it was not used, for while they were getting ready to camp, the order came to march to Fairfax Seminary. They were weary enough when their tents were pitched in the latter place.

Since the war, while visiting Col. A. H. Edwards in Detroit, Capt. Edwards went into the custom house where his relative was then an official and where he met a member of this Michigan Regt., who proved to be quartermaster when the loaves of bread were taken. For a few minutes they had fun over the incident.

(to be continued in the next issue)



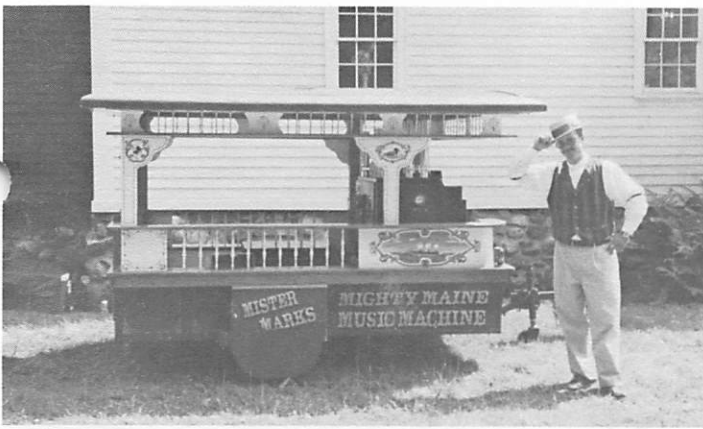
Jo Radner, Professor of Literature at American University and president of the American Folklore Society, presented the 1998 Hall Memorial Lecture, "Performing the Paper: Village Learning and Laughter in Postbellum Western Maine" as the first event of this year's Sudbury Canada Days, the Society's annual summer heritage festival. Professor Radner, who holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, quoted from a number of handwritten literary "newspapers" in her lecture including two from South and East Bethel.

DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

(continued from the last issue)

1935, April 1--25 [degrees] Nice weather. Went in to cut cordwood in p.m. My back is far from well yet. Snow is deep in woods. Still some left around the buildings. April 2--20 [degrees] Snowing. Just a light sugar snow. Pomona meeting at Newry Corner. Roads are getting pretty bad. April 3--28 [degrees] Clear and windy. Bob in Portland. Spud prices unchanged. Clouded up and was a cold miserable windy day. Snow so stiff and deep we had to shovel a road for the team. Hauled cordwood in a.m. Set up brooder stove in p.m. April 4--20 [degrees] Clear and cold. Cut cordwood in a.m. Chix hatching. 142--Big hatch!! April 5--10 [degrees] Clear and cold. Working in woods. April 6--15 [degrees] Windy. Finished work in woods. Roads still good in woods. Plenty of snow. April 7--20 [degrees] Warm and fine. Stayed home. April 8--16 [degrees] Clear and calm. Bob hauling birch. Finished repairing wheel-barrow, serviced tractor, got saw rig out, got oat grinder down from Farwells. Sawed wood, unloaded sawdust for bedding, split wood. April 9--22 [degrees] Clouding up. Went with Bob hauling birch and we got some shavings. In the p.m. ground oats and started jacking up the blacksmith shop. Got a heavy cold. Whole family either has it or has had it. Snow nearly gone in dooryard. Put away sleds. April 10--36 [degrees] Cloudy but warm. Potatoes quoted Green Mts. 75 cents, Bethel Green Mts. 85 cents. Clarence's boys [William and John, sons of C.D. Howe, first cousin of William S. Hastings, who would enter the Mackenzie King government in Canada in October 1935 as Minister of Railways and Marine] went back to school at Lennoxville. Sawed wood. April 11--25 [degrees] Nor'east wind. Sawed wood and put up spuds. April 12--20 [degrees] Nor'east wind. Bob gone to So. Paris on Farm Bureau. Split wood. Snowed at night. April 13--34 [degrees] Snowed about 3". Raining hard. N'east storm. Lasted all day. Bob and Dad gone to Fryeburg. Put up spuds. Quoted 80-90 cents. Milked 8 cows. April 14--40 [degrees] Rain stopped.

Cloudy. Going to Greenwood. Pond clear of ice (our pond) 2 days earlier than last year. Changed to summer grease in transmission. April 15--34 [degrees] Cloudy. Bob in Portland. Rain at night. Spread manure for a garden. Changed to B.V.D.s. We are due a cold spell. April 16--34 [degrees] Raining. Shifted chix to brooder house. Put up spuds at Kimballs. Rained all day but cleared at night. Bright moon in evening. April 17--30 [degrees] Snowing. Snowed about 3". Nasty day. Put up spuds. Took away banking from houses. Cleaned brooder house. April 18--35 [degrees] Raining--cold raw day. Bob gone to E. Dixfield on P.C.A. Exercised horses. Washed ceiling in kitchen. April 19--40 [degrees] Cloudy. Sawed wood. Plowed ground for a garden. Struck some frost. April 20--38 [degrees] Cloudy. Usual trip to Bethel. 39 lbs. of butter sold. This is Billy's birthday. 6 years. Plowed in p.m. Ruth and I went to see Will Rogers in "Judge Priest." Fine picture. April 21--40 [degrees] Cloudy--clearing. Worked all day. Washed car. Moved chix etc. Bought 200 started chix of Raymond Swan, Westbrook. About 475 now. April 22--40 [degrees] Cloudy--raining. Water stopped. Had to clean out tub at head. Plowed in p.m. Bob in Portland. April 23--40 [degrees] Cloudy. Sawed wood all day. Nearly finished our pile. April 24--42 [degrees] Cloudy--showers. Went to Walker's Field Day. Big crowd. Over 800. Brought planter home. [A.W. Walker was a farm equipment dealer in South Paris.] April 25--24 [degrees] Fair--white frost. Bob and Farwells in Portland. Roads from here to L. Mills have several bad spots. Split wood in a.m. Harrowed garden in p.m. Land is drying out pretty good. Minister Clifford called. April 26--26 [degrees] Clear and sunny. Took a load of spuds to Portland and shipped to Boston. Crew finished sawing wood. Nice day. April 27--50 [degrees] Warm and fair. Planted peas. Went to Lewiston. Around 80 degrees. HOT! April 28--40 [degrees] Cloudy but warm. Sunday school. Greenwood. Played tennis and golf. April 29--40 [degrees] Hauled manure and top dressed. Fairly warm. April 30--38 [degrees] Rained hard all day. Put up seed potatoes. Cold miserable day. May 1--36 [degrees] Squally. Hauled sprayer to Bethel. Hauled manure in p.m. Colder'n hell. Clifford [Bickford, brother of Bob's wife Florence] married. Changed to fast time. May 2--28 [degrees] Windy but clear. Seed potatoes to Roy Blake. Sprayer repair school at Marsh Hastings. Overhauled three sprayers including ours. May 3--30 [degrees] Wind! Put up spuds. May 4--Cloudy. Cool. Bob in Portland. Went to Bethel in a.m. Harrowed three acres for spuds in p.m. May 5--Cold. Planted a few peas. Greenwood. Tennis. Golf. First boat ride. Road from Greenwood to Lockes Mills is passable. May 6--Cloudy and cold. Snow on mts. last night. Cut seed in a.m. Put up spuds in p.m. Cemetery Ass'n meeting. May 7--Rained hard all day. Cold! Tinkered planter. Got sprayer home from Bethel. May 8--Fair and cold. Bob in Portland. May 9--Fair. Fairly warm. Planted 2 1/2 acres potatoes. Harrowed oat ground. Plowed some. May 10--Rain and clearing. Overhauled spreader. Put up potatoes and loaded them. May 11--Spread manure all day. Bob in Portland. May 12--Fair and windy. Greenwood. Tennis. Golf. May 13--Fair and warm. Plowed and harrowed. Hauled 1/2 cord of wood to school. First bobolinks here. May 14--Rain. Soaked seed. Put up a load of spuds. Quoted 70 cents per cwt. That gives us about 60 cents in Portland. Ho! Hum! Turned on water to chicken range. Colder at night. May 15--Windy! Coldest day I ever spent in May. Plowing and freezing. Put on winter underwear. May basket to Lawrence and wife [Lawrence Kimball, brother of Edith Kimball Howe, wife of William Hastings' first cousin John



Mr. Marks Mighty Music Machine presented some spirited calliope music for Sudbury Canada Days this year.

Howe. Kimball, who married Beatrice Milliken, daughter of Maine Governor Carl Milliken, taught languages at Gould Academy and would in 1937 become a professor of French at his alma mater Bates College and serve in that capacity until his death in 1956.]. Finished sowing oats. May 16--30 [degrees] White frost. Warmed up some though. Plowed, harrowed and planted. 4 acres planted. May 17--26 [degrees] White frost. Plowed and harrowed. May 18--Cold. Bob in Portland. Spread manure. May 19--Cold and windy. Dad and I went to Rapid River to see canoe running. Rough on lake outside Sunday Cove. No canoe came thru. All spilled but one and that withdrew. Rained, snowed and hailed. May 20--Cold. Built fence, soaked spuds. Took car to garage for valve grinding. May 21--Cold and windy. Showers. Planted potatoes. Got car back. Hung Bob a May basket. May 22--Cold as ever. Plowed on Crow Piece. Had to have furnace fire. About 10 1/2 acres of spuds planted. I struck frost under the manure heaps and manure has been spread two weeks. Coldest May I have ever seen. May 23--28 [degrees] Clear and frosty. Water frozen every night on chicken range. Planted potatoes. Planted garden. May 24--27 [degrees] White frost. Plowed and harrowed. Slightly warmer. May 25--30 [degrees] Nice day. Fair and warm. Harrowed. May 26--Fair and hot. We went to Rangeley, Stratton, Eustis, Chain-of-Ponds, Kingfield, Strong, Farmington and home. 245 miles. Went 19 miles above Eustis on Arnold Trail. Bad hills, narrow road but interesting. Saw some new country. May 27--Fair and hot. Planted Crow Piece to potatoes. May 28--Fair and hot. Plowing and harrowing. May 29--Warm and wet. Harrowing, etc. May 30--Fair and hot. Went to exercises at church. Planted spuds. Put up potatoes. May 30--Rainy and warm. Finished planting spuds. 18 1/2 acres. Put up spuds.

(to be continued)

EDITOR'S CORNER

It is always a pleasure to publish our members' memories of the past. I am especially pleased with Dr. William O'Brien's recollections of the role the Bethel Inn played in his life and that of his family. This type of record is always useful and the more we can collect and make available to our readers the better for present and future generations to understand the rich history of our region. Anyone having special memories of any type is encouraged to record them and let us know at the Society. We will make every effort to see that they are shared with our readers.

SRH

BETHEL'S MAIN STREET THROUGH HISTORY: A HISTORICAL SURVEY

*By Rosalind R. Chapman
(Part 4, continued from the last issue)*

41. The little mortuary shop had various businesses in it after it ceased to be used for undertaking purposes. Elmer Randall had a shoe repair business here and a clothing business. A.B. Buxton, cobbling and shoe repair, was here in 1915. Grant's Apparel, opened here in 1932. Mildred Hapgood Lyon (1889-1946) once worked for Grant's. Sadie Allen opened a lunch room in here in 1935. It was the Bethel Restaurant until it was destroyed by the fire of 1963. Proprietors of the restaurant included besides Mrs. Allen (later Brooks), Elmer Allen, Hazel Wheeler (1911-1983) and Florice Paul, Robert and Edna York, Rodney and Katheryn Eames, Elmer Bean, Mary Bishop, and Harvey Sweetser.

42. There was a wood frame building immediately to the west of the present Naimey Block. It remained after the boarding house was torn down and housed a fruit business, Sam's Fruit Store (Sam Jacobsen, prop.), then it became Dave's Fruit Store (David Felman, and finally Harold Chamberlin's). There were also several apartments in the structure and a barber shop run initially by Lester Enman, then Fred Hall (1888-1976), Harry Swanson, and Herschel Walker. It was razed in the mid-1950s. Among the residents who have lived in the apartments upstairs are the Eldridge and Baker families.

43. The site of the Naimey Block apparently began as a cabinet shop for Elijah Goddard. In 1892, Goddard improved the building, adding a porch and a show window for all lines of furniture. Following the Goddards, the property was maintained as a boarding house (known as Codfish Inn) and livery stable. Stanley Wentzell (1893-1978) sold it to Mitchell (Mike) Naimey, who razed the buildings and built the present brick structure in 1922. On the west side was Seaver's bakery and later Sherman Allen's grocery store (beginning in 1933), the center was the A. & P. Store, and on the east side a clothing store run by Naimey, who lived upstairs. An advertisement in the *Bethel Citizen* for 8 August 1929 indicated that O.A. Anctil was selling winter suits, overcoats, ladies coats, and dresses here. In 1938, Mitchell Naimey thoroughly renovated the interior of his store. The partition between the original store and that formerly occupied by the A. & P. Store was removed. New cabinets, display racks, shelves, and counters were added. The *Bethel Citizen* for 17 March 1938 noted that Naimey did most of this work himself. Subsequent owners have been Elsie Robertson, Harold Chamberlin, Norman and June Greig, John E. Grover, Esther Crockett, Brian Strickland, and the present one Carl Glidden. The post office came to this location in 1942 and the Bethel Spa Restaurant followed Harold Chamberlin's store in 1951. Dr. John Trinward moved upstairs and conducted his dental practice here from the mid-1950s until the early 1980s. John Rubino of Rumford operated a store in the former Spa space in the early 1940s. The Bethel Spa became RFD (Real Fine Dining) in the 1980s until the space was taken over by the video store run by the Wight family. Upstairs renters over the years include Ida Packard, Leon Enman, Edith Maud Judkins, William and Esther Barney, Helen Varner, Frank and Maud Hunt, Phyllis Hunt Roberts, Grace Philbrook, Eugene and Kay Brown, and Capt. McGill, who headed up the C.C.C. in the Wild River region.

(continued on page 8)

44. The lot now owned by Ruth Grover (Ruthies and Bethel Spa Motel) began with a building known as Rialto Hall, a place for dancing, roller skating, and bicycle riding in the winter. The building was probably built before 1880 since the town meeting was held there in 1886. In 1895, the building was taken over by the Chair Factory as a finishing and storage room, but they moved to the Odd Fellows Block across the street the following year according to an item in the *Oxford Democrat*. In the 5 February issue of the *Democrat*, it was reported that the Chair Company took a five year lease and moved their stock back here with an office, store, and show room on the first floor and upholstery and finishing department on the second. In 1898 the building was destroyed by fire. The *Bethel News* recorded that the upholstery and finishing department was lost along with \$8000 in stock. The insurance was only \$2400 for the contents. The building was then owned by John Chapman and was insured for \$1500. Older residents later recalled the explosions when pots of varnish and shellac ignited during the blaze. In 1900, Calvin Bisbee, who operated the general store on the site where Brown's Variety once stood, bought this lot and constructed a grist mill with fireproof storage for grain. Sanding Brook, which runs underground by the property today (culverts were installed in the 1920s here), provided adequate water power, but the mill operations blocked off the deep hole nearby which had been a place for fishing. This was to be the source of power for the new electric lights being installed in the village according to the *Oxford Democrat* for 17 July 1900: "Poles have been set and the wires for electric lighting will soon be in order. The power is to be furnished by the engine in Calvin Bisbee's new mill which is now completed." According to the *Bethel News* for 13 March 1901 a twenty five horse power gasoline engine was being used to run the Bethel Light Company dynamo. The mill did not continue for too long. In 1916, the property became J.B. Ham Grain, a mill once operated by Wesley Wheeler (1879-1963), next by L.C. Poore, and then John Harrington (1896-1982). Karl Stearns took Harrington's place as truck driver. In 1927, Ham, who came to Bethel from Lewiston, moved to the location by the tracks. Mitchell Naimey purchased the property from J.B. Ham in 1928. In the mid-1930s this was the site of a tavern operated by Bill Barney selling 3.2 beer. When Mike Naimey enlarged his clothing store in the brick block in 1938, the A.& P. moved to this building. Ralph Burris, who followed James S. Hutchins (1864-1928) as manager, purchased the property and in the mid-1940s renovated the building making two apartments on the second floor. After the A.& P. moved to Railroad Street in 1968, Norman Greig acquired the property and during his ownership the building was occupied by Sunri Ski Shop and Rolfe's Apparel. Greig sold to John E. Grover in 1970. His widow Ruth owns the property today. Among the renters upstairs were Mary Rolfe Davis, Ethel and Eugenia Haselton, Robert and Barbara Lucas, and John and Beth Brown.

45. Next to the Grover Building was a two story building with an apartment upstairs, believed to have been built in the early years of the 20th century. The first occupant of the building's first floor was Laura M. Stearns. Her assistant was Mrs. Willey and later Bessie Kenny Stanley (1885-1971). Miss Stearns and her father lived upstairs. Later the business was moved to the Chapman brick block on Broad Street. Other businesses in the building were Erma Young's store, First National Store managed by Norman Hall and



Northeast Bank president Jim Delamater (front center on the steps of the Elms) presents the first installment of a \$25,000 gift to Society trustee and Capital Campaign Chair Susan Herlihy (left) and president Walter Hatch (right). Looking on are Northeast Bank Bethel manager Anita Remington (left) and Ronald Kendall (Bank trustee).

later Clyde Brooks, Fred Hall's Barber Shop and Ruth Lord's Beauty Shop. Roman Catholic services were held here prior to the building's demolition in 1967. Norman and Lettie Hall and their family and later Gladys Bean rented the upstairs apartment. Earl and Helen Palmer once were tenants here as well.

46. A small wooden building, perhaps the original Bryant's Market building that once stood on the corner of High and Main, was moved in 1904 to this site beside the previous building. This once housed a barber shop operated by Harry H. Brown, and later Fred Hall, Jesse Doyen, and Lester Enman. In 1915, Harry Brown was advertising "Ladies shampooing and massaging with up-to-date appliances." A pool hall and later an apartment were in the rear. Horace "Hod" Littlefield once lived here. Maurice McInnis had a shoe repair shop here. In 1954-55, William "Bud" Lamson operated a television sales and service store here. It was also demolished in 1967.

47. The structure that stood here was once George J. Hapgood's Store and was later incorporated into Bryant's Market. In July 1897 the *Oxford Advertiser* recorded that "Merton Farwell and Frank Flint opened a grocery store at the former Hapgood Store." It was formerly the home of the Bethel Lower Hose Company where hose and cart were available for fire protection in the lower village. There was also an apartment on the building's second floor. Among the tenants were Guy and Nina Crouse and Charles and Caroline Merrill. The first fire bell in town stood beside the sidewalk on timbers in case of alarm and the first siren was on top of this building until moved to site near the Common after the Lower Company disbanded. An item in the *Oxford Democrat* for 5 April 1901 records the following: "At a meeting of the Bethel Village Corporation...it was voted to purchase the Benson store property, so-called, on Main Street, for a hose house for the hose company in the lower part of the village. The property will have to be considerably remodeled for this use. It was owned by F. N. Jordan of Pownal." Not much seems to be known about C.E. Benson and whether this building is the same one as the one on this site. This building is believed to have been moved to this site from High Street and was much later used by Elmer Bean as an insurance office. It is also

believed to be the site of Charles Davis' trucking company for coal and wood, which was advertising in the *Bethel News* in June 1895. Charles Day also had an office here and sold farm machinery. In the late 1930s, C.A. Austin ran a second hand auction shop in this building. Also at one time there was a card playing room known as the "Monte Carlo" in the rear of the structure, which was torn down in 1967. It is not clear if the C.E. Benson building referred to in the *Bethel News* on 23 October 1895 is the same one that Goddard Bros. purchased and moved their business to or the Goddard building previously discussed.

48. In 1876, Chauncey Bryant (1852-1934) began as a dealer of meats, driving a cart in the area. Soon business grew and he was able to establish a small corner store at Main and High streets in 1886 according to an item in the *Oxford Advertiser* for 13 August 1886: "Foundations are being put under the shop H.C. Barker lately sold to C.C. Bryant." As the business prospered, the building was presumably moved to site 46 and a new two and one half story building was built here in 1904 with an apartment on the second floor. In August 1901, Bryant's shop was piped for lighting with acetylene gas according an item in the *Oxford Democrat*. In 1899, C.C. Bryant obtained a license to buy and sell deer meat. He was also the first store owner to sell ice in Bethel. About 1900, William C. Bryant (1877-1950) became associated with his father and in 1929 his son Myron (1902-1961) joined the business as well. In 1929, the market affiliated with the I.G.A. chain. Extensive alterations were made to the store, a new section was added for a meat department, and new and larger exterior windows were also installed. The business continued here until it moved further up Main Street. There was an apartment upstairs where Richard and Barbara Bryant once lived. Diane Pease Jacques also resided here at one time. The building was also demolished in 1967 to make way for the new Casco Bank and Trust Building in 1968. This bank was later (1991) acquired by Key Bank which operates here today.

49. The Civil War Soldier's Monument on Town of Bethel land was erected in 1908 and replaced the wooden bandstand constructed a few years earlier on this site.

50. The vacant lot behind the Civil War Monument was once the site of Dunn's apartments. The building was built by Joseph Twitchell (1782-1871), first white child born in what is today Bethel, some time before 1858. Col. Clark S. Edwards (1824-1903) operated a store at this location prior to the Civil War. The property was later owned by Cryrus Wormell, who sold it to Rev. Benjamin Foster of Newport. After Foster, Eli Stearns, who had a slaughter house near Alder River, lived here and ran a boarding house. He was followed by Harvey Bragdon, who enlarged the property and created the apartments. Among the tenants were Roscoe and Bernice Swain, Charles and Reona Heino, Roscoe and Eleanor Truitt, Agnes Gurney, Durward Mason, Ada Sweeney, Ruth Dorion, Eva Lane, Elsie Poor Inman, Roland and Louise Annis, Ernest and June Scothorne, Daisy Philbrook, Ivy Philbrook, Ida Packard, and Geraldine Knighton. Upon his death, it was purchased by Butler Dunn, whose heirs own the land today. The original barn was destroyed by fire and another one was erected in 1908. All buildings on this site burned on 12 February 1991.

51. There was no building here according to the 1858 wall map. On the 1880 map, the property is marked "C.

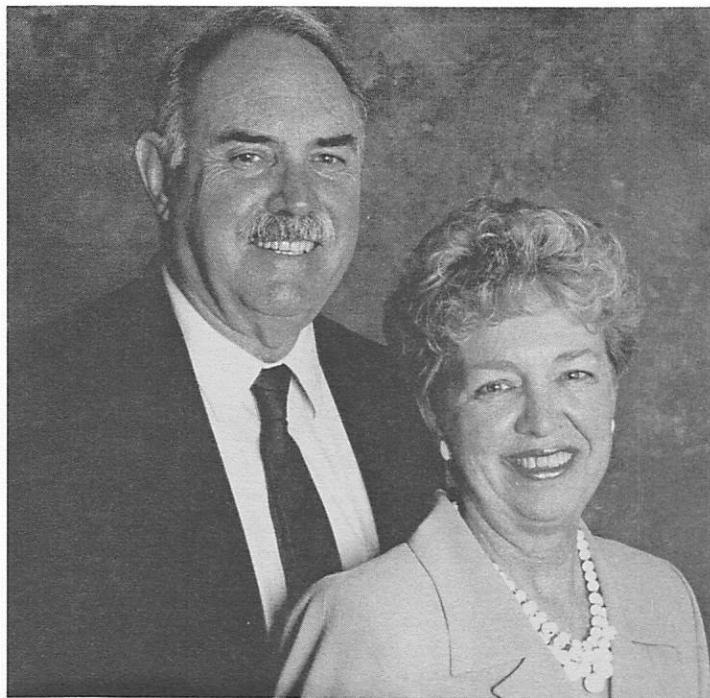


Two pair of oxen pull a load of wood down Main Street at the turn of the century. The Bethel Bandstand (now the site of the Civil War Soldier's Monument) and the Eli Stearns homestead (see site 50) are in the background.

Mason." Presumably, Charles Mason ran a store here. Tenants have been Garey's Laundry operated by William C. Garey (1875-1938) beginning in 1904. He sold the business to Ralph Young in 1915. Beginning in 1918, Guy Jack (1891-1968) from Portland, ran a mortuary and restaurant here. He was listed in the *Bethel Citizen* for 14 March 1918 as a dealer in furniture, linoleum, picture frames, mirrors, glass, moldings, curtains, fixtures with "special attention given to undertaking." Dr. Sherman Greenleaf (1893-1962) moved here in 1920 and took over the undertaking business from Jack. Mabel Greenleaf (1892-1984) briefly operated an ice cream and candy store here, which served ice cream in the winter months, a novelty of the time. Arlene Greenleaf Brown was born here in 1921. Asa Sessions also had an auto showroom here selling Star autos. In 1922, the Star Lunch opened for business here, using the same sign for Star autos, operated by Frank Flint, who was followed by Elsie Robertson and Sadie Allen. Mrs. Robertson changed the name to Pine Tree Restaurant in 1932 and had her father James Cook, a chef with forty years experience to assist her. Clayton Mills (1904-1995) bought the property in the mid-1940s following the closing of the restaurant and converted the building into apartments. Deborah Mills owns the building today.

52. This building was not here in 1858, but appears in the 1880 map and was the property of Samuel D. Philbrook. Others who have lived here include Henry Perkins, barber; C.S. York, photographer; Fritz Goddard, local express driver; Sidney Jodrey (1867-1949) railroad-man and farmer, who with his wife Samantha (1868-1953) are remembered for their cottage cheese and milk. In the 1950s, Garey and Dorothy York bought the property and made extensive alterations. After they moved to Vernon Street, the property was rented to among others, Robert, Jr., and Darlene Pilgrim, John Buck, and Audrey Sundman, who operated Skidder's Deli here until she sold the business to the present owner. Also while Audrey Sundman was here, the front of the house was the site of the Wood and Glass Gallery. There are now several businesses there along with the Deli, including Emerald Florist, and Ox Road Merchant. Mahoosuc Mountain Sports and Juniper Berry were previously on this site. Dan Smith, who owns the building and the Deli, leases the business and the upstairs apartment. Dr. Ralph Hood, an osteopathic physician, had a practice here at one time.

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Robert and Janet Spidell

MEMBER PROFILES

Robert and Janet Spidell

Robert Spidell was born in Andover and graduated from Andover High School in 1951. After serving in the Marines, he moved to California and graduated from California State University, Long Beach in 1965 with a B.A. in Economics. He started a tax consulting business in 1970, and founded Spidell Publishing in 1975, which provides tax news, information and tax research data bases for California tax professionals, including books, newsletters, seminars, and more recently CD-ROMS and a Web Site. He sold the company in 1997 and is now semi-retired, but still acts as a consultant to the company.

Bob has been president of the Inland Society of Tax Consultants, the Southern California Chapter of the Newsletter Publishers Association, and was twice president of the California State University at Long Beach Alumni Association. He has been listed in Who's Who in California, Who's Who in the West, and Who's Who in Leading American Executives.

He married Janet Murphy in 1963, and they have four children and four grandchildren. Janet graduated from St. Agnes School of Nursing (now Marion College) in Fond du lac, Wisconsin in 1957. She worked as a R.N. until becoming an officer/employee in the family business in 1978. She has also been president of the Northern Orange County (CA) Chapter of the League of Women Voters, and a member of the Board of Directors of Halcyon, an interfaith group that helps the homeless turn their lives around.

Both Spidells are interested in history and genealogy and are life members of the Society. Early this year, they made a gift of \$1000 for the acquisition of genealogies for the research library. This summer they followed that gift by supporting the Society's capital campaign, choosing to fund the research library in the Robinson House which will bear their name.

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<http://orion.bdc.bethel.me.us/~history>

(Main Street, continued from page 9)

53. Daniel Grout once had a small house here until it was purchased by Seth Walker and removed. The following was found in the *Oxford Democrat* for 5 March 1902, which may relate to this property: "The Garland house, one of the oldest landmarks on lower Main Street, was torn down by Ernest Cross, who had purchased the property from Seth Walker." The *Oxford Democrat* reported that Will Chapman was living here in February 1897. In the 1960s the lot was purchased by Norman Greig from the Bean heirs and he moved Dr. Willard Boynton's former office on Paradise to the lot. For a short time, the building was used as an insurance office by W.J. Wheeler and by the newly formed School District (1966-68). It was the office of osteopathic physician Loy S. Harrell until purchased by Dr. Rex Martin of Harrison. He sold to Dr. Leonard Shaw, an optometrist, who operates his practice there today.

54. This house was built by Abernathy Grover in 1875. The barn on this property was said to have been built with timbers salvaged from the Bethel town house, which stood near the parish line on present-day Intervale Road. Grover purchased the building at the 1871 town meeting for \$67. He sold the premises to Seth Walker (1836-1921), who became a partner with Oliver H. Mason (1830-1891) in 1881. Ernest Walker (1865-1942) succeeded his father and lived here until his death. In 1941, the property was acquired by P.H. Chadbourne (1901-1994), who sold it to Albert Bean in 1955. The Beans provided music lessons and operated a restaurant here called The Window Box. Douglas and Sue Bane purchased the property from the Bean family. They sold it to Garret and Melody Bonnema in 1974, who also operate a pottery shop and gallery here.

55. In 1858, Robert A. Chapman had a building on this site. Fletcher Russell, son of Abraham (1748-1839), later had a dwelling and blacksmith shop here. He moved to Vermont and it is believed that Samuel D. Philbrook (1838-1898), a cattle dealer, acquired the property from him in 1860. The house burned in 1878 and he employed Edmund Merrill, Jr. to build the present structures. In 1907, the place became the property of Mortimer Thurston, who came here from Newry. He was a cattle dealer and made good use of the large barn. His daughter, Edith (1890-1971), inherited the property and married Thomas Brown (1893-1986). For several years the Browns ran a tourist home and insurance business here. Eva Bean had an apartment here in the 1960s. Harold and Monique Rolfe also lived here after World War II. The Browns only surviving child Norris (1915-1997) was the next owner and leased it to the Bethel Area Health Center for a treatment facility. It eventually bought the property from Brown, selling it to Herbert M. Jacobs of Boston, MA, who sold it to John C. and Lynn Mason Boschetti in March 1987. Lynn Mason later acquired the property. In 1994, she sold to Patricia Thurston who extensively renovated both the barn and the house as a commercial site known as Philbrook Place.

56. In 1892, Samuel D. Philbrook built a shop here, which was used by his son, Dana (1871-1950) for watch and clock repairs as well as jewelry sales. In 1893 an item in the *Oxford Democrat* appeared: "D.C. Philbrook has taken an agency for bicycles, and sells them on easy installments." In 1895, Philbrook was advertising bees, hives, and honey for sale from this location. Wade Thurston (1884-1969), son of Mortimer, who owned the adjacent property, moved the shop, and built the present

house about 1914. Fire damaged the house in the 1930s, but was repaired. Wade's first wife, Kathryn "Cassie" (1889-1948) operated a tourist home at this location. In 1938, Wade's daughter Josephine ("Jo") was advertising home-cooked pastry from this location. Wade's widow, Bertha (1895-1985), lived there until her death, and rented the apartment in the back of the building. Clifford and Carrie Merrill and Wallace Lilas Coolidge were among the tenants. After her death, the property was sold to Mitzie Naples, who also rents the apartment.

57. This building was built in 1994 by Joseph DeMarco for living quarters and office space for his chiropractic practice. He demolished the previous building on this site, which began as a store, built by Robert A. Chapman in the early 1870s. The Oxford Democrat in 1874 recorded that Chapman was "adding paint and blinds" to his new store that spring. Since his brother Elbridge had moved to Portland following the disastrous fire of 1865 near the Common, Enoch Woodbury succeeded to partnership with Chapman. The store was sold to Ira C. Jordan on 8 September 1890. Jordan, a former storekeeper in Locke Mills, painted the buildings and added the porch. Here one could buy almost anything from shoes to codfish. After Ira Jordan's death, he was succeeded in the business by his son Harry (1871-1946), who continued operating the store until the 1920s. The Jordans lived upstairs over the store. Following the closing of the store, the first floor became an apartment. Tenants have included Lawrence Lord, Bud Pratt, Harry Sawin (1867-1966), Norman Hall, Guy Gibbs, Donald Bennett, Town Manager Michael and Marilyn Houlihan, Flora Gibbs Anderson, and Patrick Grenier. There was a basement apartment built for Fern Jordan's daughter Virginia Perry and her child during World War II. Edna Young and Rosalie Currier lived here as well. John Witter sold the property to DeMarco and Francis Dumont. Dumont later transferred his share to DeMarco, who leased the building to Dr. Timothy Comeford, a chiropractor. It was purchased by Robert Chadbourne in 1998. Pauline Davis recalls grain being sold on the side of the former Jordan in the 1930s. Roy Moore worked there as manager.

It seems that the telephone poles were to be installed in the spring of 1895 from an item in the *Oxford Democrat* with the crew of twenty seven living in tents. The sewer was installed in 1901. Ninety years later, the entire street was dug up to put in new sewer lines and storm drains.

Through the years, residents and businesses have come and gone on Main Street. One cannot buy such a wide variety of goods here as was the case a century ago, but the street still offers a mixture of merchandise and services. Often it is still bustling with activity, especially at the height of the summer season, during foliage time, and in late December when skiing gets into full swing. Fires and demolitions have taken their toll on Main Street landmarks, but there is enough left unscathed by time to allow someone from the last century to have a distinct sense of place.

IN MEMORIAM

Died, 27 April 1998, Charlotte Kendall Johnson, Westford, MA, Life Member

Died, 12 July 1998, Elizabeth F. Blake, Bethel, Senior Member

Died, 26 July 1998, Arnol K. Brown, Bethel, Life Member

BOOK NOTES

The following titles are available from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite #300, Bowie, MD 20716. Heritage Books accepts Visa/Master Card/Discover/Checks/Money Orders. Shipping is \$4 per book.

NATIVE AMERICAN DIRECTORY; VITAL RECORDS OF MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, CONNECTICUT, NEW YORK, AND WISCONSIN by Lorraine (Rainwaters) Henry. 1998, 131 pp., bibliography, paper. \$15.

The bulk of the data included here falls in the 18th and 19th centuries, but some of the entries are in the 17th century. Tribes mentioned in the book are Aquinah,

(continued on page 12)

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(Book Notes, continued from page 11)

Brothertown, Christiantown, Dartmouth, Deep Bottom, Dudley, Hassanamisco, Herring Pond, Mashpee, Massachusetts, Mohegan, Narragansetts, Natick, Nipmunk, Passamaquoddy, Pequot, Punkapog, Troy, Tunxis, Wamesit, Wampanog and Yarmouth. The book is divided into three sections with Section I listing births. The entries are arranged in alphabetical order by last name and include the date, sex of child, the parents and place of birth. Section II offers marriages with brides and grooms listed in alphabetical order by last name of the spouse, tribe, place of marriage and date of marriage. In some instances the name of the parents and the official who performed the marriage are given. Section III lists deaths with the entries in alphabetical order by last name and include the date, tribe, place of death and in some instances the parents are listed.

THE VITAL RECORDS OF HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1734-1985, compiled by Gerald Q. Nash, Sandra J. Martinson and Roland A. Marchand. 1997, 596 pages, paper, \$39.50. The birth records listed here include child's name, sex, date of birth, and when known the child's birth position in the family and the parents' name. The marriage records include male and maiden female names, and bride's and groom's parents' names. Death records contain deceased person's name, and when known, the age at death (year, month, and days), date of death, and parents' names.



June Abbott, Barbara Honkala, and Mabel Kennett work at Sudbury Canada Days to complete the very special Leaf Symphony Quilt to be raffled by the Capital Campaign Committee on December 31, 1999. Mrs. Kennett donated all materials connected with the project including the raffle tickets. Those wishing to order tickets for an opportunity to win this prize heirloom quilt are urged to fill out the coupon below. The cost of tickets is \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Please send your order and remittance to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217. Tickets will be sent by return mail. Photo courtesy of Lorrie Hoeh.

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SOCIETY NOW HAS FAX ACCESS

Through the generosity of Society Members John and Julia Fox of Andover, ME and West Newton, MA, the Society now has a fax machine. The number is (207) 824-0882. Much appreciation is due these Life Members for their help in making this possible.

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